

Cathy Zoi:

Hi. I'm Cathy Zoi, acting undersecretary of Energy. I'm excited to expand upon an announcement Vice President Biden just made to help you save money by saving energy. Today we're giving you a preview of a new program called the Home Energy Score. It helps householders and prospective home buyers understand how a home's energy systems perform on a simple, 10-point scale. To put it in perspective, most of you know what mileage your car gets, or should get. And that the higher the MPG rating, the less you're going to spend on gasoline. But what about your home? Do you have any idea what the MPG of your home is?

Here's the thing: Most Americans spend between \$1,500 and \$2,500 each year on home energy costs. Well, the new Home Energy Score is like the MPG for your house. It provides a barometer for home energy performance, so you can see how your home uses energy and receive tailor-made suggestions on how to reduce your utility bills by a lot.

Let me walk you through how the Home Energy Score works. As you know, all homes are different. So first, a trained and qualified contractor will come to your house to evaluate your particular home's structure, its heating and cooling systems, insulation levels, and more. Next, the contractor will enter that information into the Home Energy Scoring Tool to generate your home's score. And then, right then and there you'll receive a label like this, full of valuable information. You can see your home's current score, where a 10 is the best most-efficient home, and a 1 means there's a lot of energy and money being wasted. Here's your home's score with upgrades, meaning what your score could be if you make all of the recommended home energy improvements, such as adding insulation and sealing your ducts. And this is your estimated annual savings, which could easily total hundreds of dollars each year if you make all of the upgrades. Along with your home's score, you'll receive customized recommendations on how to improve your home's energy performance, and an estimate of how long it will take to recover your investment. And because only qualified professionals can access the Home Energy Scoring Tool, you can be confident that you're getting accurate results.

Here's another great thing: No matter where you live or are looking to buy, the Home Energy Scoring Tool can be used. It works everywhere in the country, whether you're in Tampa or Tuscaloosa, Minneapolis or Midland. A technician enters the data, your house gets scored, and you get practical recommendations for making the home more comfortable and economical. So we're very excited about the Home Energy Score. Finally, an easy way to get quick and credible advice on how to save money and make your family more comfortable. And a tool that allows you to benchmark one home against another, and to brag about your home if it's really efficient. All of this, while helping America reduce dependence on polluting fuels, many of which are imported from overseas.

For the next few months, we'll be piloting the Home Energy Score in selected communities across the country. We'll then make it widely available in the middle of 2011, so get ready. In the meantime, though, if you're keen to get going on home energy improvements, you can visit EnergySavers.gov for a series of practical tips on saving energy at home. Remember, the Home Energy Score is a perfect combo: saving money, saving energy, helping America.